

Appl. No. 10/725,425
Amdt dated May 23, 2005
Reply to Office action of March 21, 2005

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings contains a new Fig. 3 showing a perspective view of the collection tank and including section line 1-1.

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are presently in the application.

The examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1-11 is greatly appreciated. In the Office action, the examiner objected to Fig. 1, because the figure shows a sectional view without any indication of where the section view is taken. To address the examiner's objection, a new Fig. 3 is enclosed showing a perspective view of the collection tank and including section line 1-1.

The examiner objected to the drawings for failing to show the "truck-mounted grease transport tank, lift means for handling and dumping individual on-site grease collection tanks into the truck grease transport tank, and an intermediate stage heating bath" recited in claim 1. Reconsideration of this objection is requested. Claim 1 is directed to "[a]n improved double-walled grease collection tank for use in a waste grease collection system including a truck-mounted grease transport tank, lift means for handling and dumping individual on-site grease collection tanks into the truck grease transport tank, and an intermediate stage heating bath into which the double-walled grease collection tank is deposited temporarily to liquify grease in contact with the inner surfaces of the collection tank in order to facilitate dumping the contents thereof, the improvement wherein said double-walled grease collection tank comprises " The truck-mounted grease transport tank, lift means and an intermediate stage heating bath are found in the statement of intended use in the preamble of the claim. These elements are not parts of the claimed "double-walled grease collection tank." Rather, they simply help identify the

environment in which the collection tank is used. Since the truck-mounted grease transport tank, lift means and an intermediate stage heating bath are not claimed elements, their illustration is not required by the rules. Furthermore, these elements are well known in the art as shown by U.S. Patent No. 4,450,828, which is incorporated by reference in the specification at para. [0011].

The examiner objected to the drawings for failing to show the “plurality of fill openings” (claim 2), the “plurality of vent openings” (claim 4) and the “removable vent closure” (claim 11). New Fig. 3, shows a plurality of fill openings 36 and a plurality of vent openings 38. According to the teachings in the original specification, the removable closure members for the vent openings may be of any suitable design, including the removable closure members shown in Fig. 2. The specification has also been amended at para. [0023] to state this obvious fact. Accordingly, no amendment to the drawings is necessary, since the removable closure member recited in claim 11 is already illustrated. Furthermore, claim 11 is a method claim. As pointed out in section 601.01(f) of the MPEP, method claims do not typically require illustration.¹

In view of the preceding, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is requested.

The specification has been amended as suggested by the examiner to overcome the examiner’s objections to the specification.

¹ Section 601.01(f) states, in part, that:
It has been USPTO practice to treat an application that contains at least one process or method claim as an application for which a drawing is not necessary for an understanding of the invention under 35 U.S.C. 113 (first sentence).

The claims have also been amended as suggested by the examiner to overcome the examiner's objections to the language of claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 9. However, lines 19-22 of claim 9 have not been amended. The examiner states that "a vent to permit 'the hot water to flow through the fill openings to fill the air space between the inner and outer container space to the level of submersion of the collecting tank' (L: 19-22) is not possible if 'at least one fill opening in the sidewalls of the outer container portion adjacent its bottom wall' L: 13-14)." The examiner's objection is not understood. The language of lines 19-22 follows the teachings in the specification. In para. [0024], applicant teaches that:

When the full tank is to be emptied, the grease collection tank is moved into the collection position and the fill plugs 42 are removed. At the same time, if vent closures are used, those closures are also removed. The filled tank is then lifted and lowered into the hot water bath carried by the collection truck so that the hot water flows through the openings 36 to fill the space 18 to the level of submersion.

Claim 9, ll. 13-22 call for the steps of:

providing at least one fill opening in at least one of said sidewalls of the outer container portion adjacent its bottom wall, and sealingly closing each said fill opening with a removable closure member,
removing the closure members from the fill openings when the filled collection

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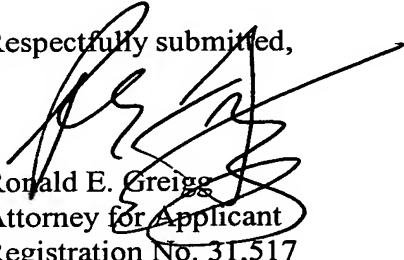
tank is to be emptied,

lifting the filled collecting tank and submersing it into the hot water bath and
permitting the hot water to flow through the fill openings to fill the air space
between the inner and outer container space to the level of submersion of the
collecting tank,

Thus, there is nothing objectionable with respect to the language found in claim 9, lines
19-22. Reconsideration of this particular objection is requested.

Entry of the amendment and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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